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CH/12/11/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-006-11

Application No.: 09/988,954

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: November 21, 2001

Examiner: P. Prebilic

For: TISSUE PRESS AND SYSTEM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231
BOX AMENDMENT – NO FEE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 5, 2002, please enter the following into the file of the above-entitled application.

Election/Restriction

Applicant hereby elects to restrict the above-entitled application to the invention of claims 62-102, designated as Group II in the Office Action. Also, if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable, Applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, the following species with reference to the categories set forth in the Office Action: Species e (spacer) from Category 1; Species 4 (biodegradable material) from Category 2; and Species I (fastener method) from Category 3.

In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicant respectfully submits that the following claims read on the elected combination of species: 62-71, 76, 81, 83, 88, 89, 91, 92, 94, 96, and 100-102.